



NORTH DAKOTA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 2015

NDCA CONTACT

Amy Schmidt, amschmid@nd.gov, (701) 328-7594

BUSH FOUNDATION CONTACT

Dominick Washington, dwashington@bushfoundation.org, (651) 379-2219

NDCA Selected to Participate in Bush Foundation's Community Creativity Cohort

The North Dakota Council on the Arts receives \$100,000 grant and will work with Bush Foundation to advance its effort to meaningfully engage people in the arts and integrate the arts into public life.

The North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA) is one of 16 organizations from across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota selected to participate in the Bush Foundation's Community Creativity Cohort. The Cohort is a one-time program designed by the Foundation to both recognize and learn from exemplary organizations that meaningfully engage people in the arts and integrate the arts into public life.

The organizations selected to participate in the Cohort will each receive an unrestricted grant of \$100,000. In addition, the Cohort will work with the Bush Foundation over the next six months to articulate the challenges and opportunities associated with their work, particularly around efforts to engage the community, build and support leadership, and advance racial and economic equity. The insights from this effort will help inform the Foundation's future work in the arts.

"The North Dakota Council on the Arts has a long history of creative work in the area of folk and traditional arts," states board chairman David "White Thunder" Trottier, "and it is one of the first in the country to systematically work in the nexus between folk arts, arts, and health. We look forward to working with the Bush Foundation to offer creative solutions to address shared challenges and advance opportunities in our communities."

NDCA Folklorist Troyd Geist explains, "With this support, we will be able to broaden our impact by expanding both statewide and regionally the *Art for Life Program*, which seeks to improve the emotional and physical health of elders in care facilities. It is very humbling and gratifying to have this work recognized by the Bush Foundation."

The Community Creativity Cohort will meet twice over the next six months. Each meeting will feature guest presenters who will inspire and inform the Cohort on issues

related to community engagement, leadership development and equity. The organizations that participate in the Cohort will also share lessons learned from their experience working on these issues in their own communities. The Foundation worked with Laura Zabel, Executive Director of Springboard for the Arts and a 2014 Bush Fellow, to design the Cohort experience.

“The arts can inspire communities to think bigger and differently about how to address tough challenges. But organizations that work in the arts wrestle with tough challenges of their own,” said Bush Foundation Strategy and Learning Vice President Allison Barmann. “The Community Creativity Cohort will help us better understand both the challenges and opportunities these organizations face. This knowledge will strengthen our ability to support efforts to engage people in the arts and integrate the arts into public life.”

###

About the Bush Foundation

The Bush Foundation invests in great ideas and the people who power them. We encourage individuals and organizations to think bigger and think differently about what is possible in communities across Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the same geographic area. Since it was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife, Edyth, the Foundation has invested nearly one billion dollars in grants to thousands of organizations and individuals.

###

The North Dakota Council on the Arts is the state agency responsible for the support and development of the arts throughout North Dakota, and is funded by the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.